(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of amendments proposed to be incorporated in various Acts for the safety of handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) act, 1995, enacted and enforced from Feb., 1996 by the Ministry of Social Justice & empowerment protects and safeguards the interests of disabled persons. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspect of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities set up in the year 2000 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has requested Department of Legal Affairs to ask Law Commission to examine whether necessary amendments in existing laws are required to safeguard the interests of the disabled persons.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Cultivation of Tea in Himachal Pradesh

3867. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total area in Himachal Pradesh, where tea is cultivated, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any possibility for production of high quality tea in the State;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide special assistance to the State Government for renovation and improvement of tea gardens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) The total area in Himachal Pradesh where tea is cultivated is about 2311 hectares, comprising of about 2117 hectares in Kangra district, about 193 hectares in Mandi district and about 1 hectare in Chamba district.

(b) Yes, Sir. Owing to hilly terrain and the prevailing agro-climatic conditions, Himachal Pradesh has an inherent advantage of producing high quality tea.

(c) and (d) Government/Tea Board is operating various tea developmental schemes in Himachal Pradesh such as rejuvenation pruning and consolidation of the old uneconomic sections, small growers development scheme, reclamation of the earlier abandoned tea areas by granting subsidy for rejuvenation and replacement planting, quality upgradation programme etc. Necessary research and development support is also extended to the State for encouraging scientific cultivation through demonstration plots. During the 10th Five Year Plan, emphasis has been given on consolidation of existing tea areas for improving productivity and quality. Besides, the Government has also launched a Price Stabilisation Fund for the small growers upto 4 hectares to provide protection to the small tea growers against fluctuating price situation.

**Incentives to Service Sector in New Exim Policy**

3868. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given any incentives to the service sector in the newly announced Exim Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) The Government has formulated a scheme wherein service providers have been allowed duty free credit entitlement for import of spares, office equipments and furniture, professional equipment and consumables (other than